

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0175] with the following amended paragraph:

[0175] Figures 13A, 13B, 13C, ~~and 13D~~, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D show various surgical needles, where a barbed suture is attached to each surgical needle. In order to facilitate insertion into tissue, the surgical needles may be coated with a polymer, for instance, as described above vis-à-vis U.S. Patent No. 5,258,013 to Granger et al.

Please add the following new paragraphs [0179.1] through [0179.12] after paragraph [0179]:

[0179.1] Figure 14A shows surgical needle N1 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N1 has pointed tip T1 for insertion into tissue and also has hole H1. Barbed suture S1 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N1 has diameter D1 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N1 is illustrated as attached by shrink wrapping SW1 to barbed suture S1. More particularly, surgical needle N1, after having suture S1 inserted into hole H1, is shown having shrink wrapping SW1, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N1/S1, where the end of suture S1 is disposed in hole H1 at the end of needle N1, in order to hold suture S1 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S1 may be crimped by standard procedures about hole H1 to help hold suture S1 in place.

[0179.2] Figure 14B shows surgical needle N2 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N2 has pointed tip T2 for insertion into tissue and also has hole H2. Barbed suture S2 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N2 has diameter D2 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D1 of surgical

needle N1. Surgical needle N2 is illustrated as attached by shrink wrapping SW2 to barbed suture S2. More particularly, surgical needle N2, after having suture S2 inserted into hole H2, is shown having shrink wrapping SW2, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N2/S2, where the end of suture S2 is disposed in hole H2 at the end of needle N2, in order to hold suture S2 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S2 may be crimped by standard procedures about hole H2 to help hold suture S2 in place.

[0179.3] Figure 14C shows surgical needle N3 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N3 has pointed tip T3 for insertion into tissue and also has hole H3. Barbed suture S3 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N3 has diameter D3 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N3 is illustrated as attached by shrink wrapping SW3 to barbed suture S3. More particularly, surgical needle N3, after having suture S3 inserted into hole H3, is shown having shrink wrapping SW3, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N3/S3, where the end of suture S3 is disposed in hole H3, at the end of needle N3, in order to hold suture S3 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S3 may be crimped by standard procedures about hole H3 to help hold suture S3 in place.

[0179.4] Figure 14D shows surgical needle N4 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N4 has pointed tip T4 for insertion into tissue and also has hole H4. Barbed suture S4 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N4 has diameter D4 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D3 of surgical needle N3. Surgical needle N4 is illustrated as attached by shrink wrapping SW4 to barbed suture S4. More particularly, surgical needle N4, after having suture S4 inserted into hole H4, is shown having shrink wrapping SW4, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N4/S4, where the end of suture S4 is disposed in hole H4, at the end of needle N4, in order to hold suture S4 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S4 may be crimped by standard

procedures about hole H4 to help hold suture S4 in place.

[0179.5] Figure 15A shows surgical needle N1 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N1 has pointed tip T1 for insertion into tissue and also has channel C1. Barbed suture S1 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N1 has diameter D1 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N1 is illustrated as attached by channel wrapping CW1 to barbed suture S1. More particularly, surgical needle N1, after having suture S1 placed into channel C1, is shown having channel wrapping CW1, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N1/S1, where the end of suture S1 is disposed in channel C1 at the end of the needle N1, in order to hold suture S1 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S1 may be crimped by standard procedures about channel C1 to help hold suture S1 in place.

[0179.6] Figure 15B shows surgical needle N2 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N2 has pointed tip T2 for insertion into tissue and also has channel C2. Barbed suture S2 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N2 has diameter D2 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D1 of surgical needle N1. Surgical needle N2 is illustrated as attached by channel wrapping CW2 to barbed suture S2. More particularly, surgical needle N1, after having suture S2 placed into channel C2, is shown having channel wrapping CW2, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N2/S2, where the end of suture S2 is disposed in channel C2 at the end of the needle N2, in order to hold suture S2 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S2 may be crimped by standard procedures about channel C2 to help hold suture S2 in place.

[0179.7] Figure 15C shows surgical needle N3 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N3 has

pointed tip T3 for insertion into tissue and also has channel C3. Barbed suture S3 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N3 has diameter D3 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N3 is illustrated as attached by channel wrapping CW3 to barbed suture S3. More particularly, surgical needle N3, after having suture S3 placed into channel C3, is shown having channel wrapping CW3, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N3/S3, where the end of suture S3 is disposed in channel C3, at the end of needle N3, in order to hold suture S3 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S3 may be crimped by standard procedures about channel C3 to help hold suture S3 in place.

[0179.8] Figure 15D shows surgical needle N4 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N4 has pointed tip T4 for insertion into tissue and also has channel C4. Barbed suture S4 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N4 has diameter D4 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D3 of surgical needle N3. Surgical needle N4 is illustrated as attached by channel wrapping CW4 to barbed suture S4. More particularly, surgical needle N4, after having suture S4 placed into channel C4, is shown having channel wrapping CW4, illustrated in cutaway and disposed about needle/suture N4/S4, where the end of suture S4 is disposed in channel C4, at the end of needle N4, in order to hold suture S4 in place for suturing tissue. Surgical needle S4 may be crimped by standard procedures about channel C4 to help hold suture S4 in place.

[0179.9] Figure 16A shows surgical needle N1 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N1 has pointed tip T1 for insertion into tissue and also has eyelet E1. Barbed suture S1 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N1 has diameter D1 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N1 is illustrated as

attached by eyelet threading to barbed suture S1. More particularly, surgical needle N1 is shown having suture S1 placed through eyelet E1, where the end of suture S1 is disposed in eyelet E1 at the end of the needle N1. In order to help hold suture S1 in place for suturing tissue, suture S1 may be looped more than once by standard procedures through eyelet E1 or suture S1 may be knotted by standard procedures.

[0179.10] Figure 16B shows surgical needle N2 that is a straight elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N2 has pointed tip T2 for insertion into tissue and also has eyelet E2. Barbed suture S2 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N2 has diameter D2 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D1 of surgical needle N1. Surgical needle N2 is illustrated as attached by eyelet threading to barbed suture S2. More particularly, surgical needle N2 is shown having suture S2 placed through eyelet E2, where the end of suture S2 is disposed in eyelet E2 at the end of the needle N2. In order to help hold suture S2 in place for suturing tissue, suture S2 may be looped more than once by standard procedures through eyelet E2 or suture S1 may be knotted by standard procedures.

[0179.11] Figure 16C shows surgical needle N3 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N3 has pointed tip T3 for insertion into tissue and also has eyelet E3. Barbed suture S3 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N3 has diameter D3 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a relatively thin diameter, such as about 0.02 inch (about 0.51 mm). Surgical needle N3 is illustrated as attached by eyelet threading to barbed suture S3. More particularly, surgical needle N3 is shown having suture S3 placed through eyelet E3, where the end of suture S3 is disposed in eyelet E3, at the end of needle N3. In order to help hold suture S3 in place for suturing tissue, suture S3 may be looped more than once by standard procedures through eyelet E3 or suture S3 may be knotted.

[0179.12] Figure 16D shows surgical needle N4 that is a curved elongated needle in the longitudinal direction and that is generally circular in cross section. Surgical needle N4 has pointed tip T4 for insertion into tissue and also has eyelet E4. Barbed suture S4 is a barbed suture including, but not limited to, any of the above-described barbed sutures. Additionally, surgical needle N4 has diameter D4 in the transverse direction, which is illustrated as a suitably thin diameter, such as about 0.032 inch (about 0.81 mm), but not as thin as diameter D3 of surgical needle N3. Surgical needle N4 is illustrated as attached by eyelet threading to barbed suture S4. More particularly, surgical needle N4 is shown having suture S4 placed through eyelet E4, at the end of needle N4. In order to help hold suture S4 in place for suturing tissue, suture S4 may be looped more than once by standard procedures through eyelet E4 or suture S4 may be knotted by standard procedures.